



2024

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



**Powell River  
Trail**  
*Virginia*



## Powell River Trail

Virginia

*The Powell River Trail is a 2.4-mile out-and-back trail in Appalachia, southwestern Virginia. The trail sits on the former*



into Big Stone Gap to link to that town's greenway system.

The Powell River Trail is a 2.4-mile out-and-back trail in Appalachia, southwestern Virginia. The trail sits on the former Louisville & Nashville Railroad bed, which was used to haul coal from Appalachia to the neighboring Big Stone Gap. More than a century later, this corridor is used by enthusiastic residents and visitors alike for walking, running, biking and walking dogs. Fishermen use the trail to access the Powell River. Trail users on the ten-foot wide trail may catch glimpses of wild turkey, bears and bears in the thick forest. The trail also features two tunnels: at 47 feet, the Bee Rock Tunnel was once claimed to be the shortest railroad tunnel in the world (a claim later disproved). The Callahan Tunnel is longer, darker and unlike the former, not reinforced. Interpretive signage placed along the trail narrates the history of the trail. It is hoped that the trail will be extended across US-23 BUS. and



# Powell River Trail

## Virginia

**States:** Virginia

**Counties:** Wise

Length: 1.2miles

**Trail end points:** W Main Street/ US-23 Bus.  
(Appalachia) to Big Stone Gap

**Trail surfaces:** Asphalt, Gravel

**Trail category:** Rail-Trail

**Trail activities:** Bike, Wheelchair  
Accessible, Mountain Biking, Walking

## Parking & Trail Access

Beginning on State Route 160 over black mountain from Kentucky, Turn left onto N Inman Street then right onto W Main Street. The trailhead is on your right before you go under the steel bridge. Look for the bright red Norfolk and Western caboose on display in the parking lot. The address is 722 W Main St, Appalachia.



# Powell River Trail

Virginia



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



**TrailLink**  
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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